

(1) Number of pages _____

(2) Date of repair _____

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	574	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	3-3-	1876

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
3rd March 1876.*

No. 24. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. FISCHER, R.E., District Engineer, Madura, to Major-General G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madura, 2nd February 1876, No. 4,048:—

In acknowledging the receipt of G.O. of the 14th January 1876, No. 81, I beg to express my regret in having overlooked the year in which G.O. of the 20th June 1874, No. 1,038, was issued to this department, but I trust his Grace, in Council will be pleased to allow me to refer to other documents in which I had shown the great insufficiency of the subordinate establishment attached to this district, particularly my letters printed in G.O. of the 13th September 1875, No. 2,619, and in G.O. of the same date, No. 2,644, as compared with other districts of the Presidency of less areas.

2. The area of Madura District is not less than 9,000 square miles, and now that the extra Overseer, Imperial, is to be attached to Major Law on special duty on the Pulney Hills, and one Overseer, Imperial, is employed entirely on the Paumben channel works, I have only six available for the general duties of the district, or one for 1,500 square miles of country. Here I beg to observe the areas of the Zemindaries cannot be omitted in considering this subject, as many works, besides roads, &c., are constructing in them from Imperial Funds.

3. In the adjacent district of Srirangapatna there are eleven Imperial Fund Overseers for an area of only 6,271 square miles, or one for 570 square miles of country.

4. In Tinnevely for an area of 5,817 square miles there are ten of these Overseers, or one for 580 square miles.

5. In Trichinopoly for an area of 3,584 square miles there are six of these men, or one for 600 square miles of country.

6. In Salem there are ten Overseers for an area of 7,604 square miles of country, or one for 760 square miles.

7. And in all these districts there are Local Fund Overseers besides, how many I do not know, but counting in all the Local Fund Overseers of Madura we have only fifteen men for 9,000 square miles, or one for 600 square miles; but as six of these are only Maistries on Rupees 20 a-month without any establishments and unable to keep accounts, make payments or prepare plans, estimates, or surveys, &c., there are in reality only nine qualified Overseers, or one for 1,000 square miles.

8. In making these representations I have only referred to the adjacent districts to show how much below the mark we are as compared with them in strength of establishment; but looking at the expenditure incurred here of nearly 4½ lakhs in the year over an area of 9,000 square miles, and contrasting this with that taking place in the Godavery of about 2½ lakhs on similar dry ground of an area of only 5,000 square miles, it will, I trust, be seen how much heavier the work is on the subordinates here when the works are scattered all over the country than elsewhere. In making this comparison I have of course omitted the delta entirely, but taking this into consideration it will not be difficult to show how much more advantageous it is to the Government to carry on works on a well-planned design, managed on right principles, than to be distributing very weak establishments all over the country to look after petty irrigation or other works, which it is impossible to make anything

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
3rd March 1876.

of, especially when no instructions are given to show how any good results can be obtained from these, and after months of labor these trifling projects are returned for further information, or to be arranged on some other plan.

9. I can only again express my regret for not having fully satisfied myself of the dates of certain Government Orders, but I trust it will now be seen that in bringing to the notice of the Government the inadequacy of the Public Works establishment in Madura, I had good grounds for the representations made by me, independently of the existing Local Fund Overseers, including in these even the mistry class; and having had experience of this matter in bringing up a district like the Godavery to a higher standard of progress than any other in the Presidency with very satisfactory results, as shown by the condition of those works and the increase of irrigation, navigation, and revenue, I would beg earnestly to solicit that this matter may be allowed some further consideration, as I am certain neither the interests of the Government nor that of the district have been at all adequately provided for in Madura, and much of its backward state is due to this cause.

No. 25. ORDER THEREON, 3rd March 1876, No. 574.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 2.

ORDERED to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

Major-General, G.E.

Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Madura.

Exd. S. T. Austin

Spare Copies

No. 4448 District Engineer's Office
Madura 2 February 1876

From

Vicent Lancelotti J. Esq. R.E.
District Engineer Madura.

Major-General G. W. Walker R.E.
Secretary to Government D.W.

In acknowledging the receipt of LFO of the 14 January 1876, No. 25, I beg to express my regret in having overlooked the receipt of LFO of the 20 June 1876, No. 25, which was filed to this Department, but I trust his Grace's Council will be pleased to allow me to refer to other documents in which I had shown the great insufficiency of the subordinate establishment attached to this District, particularly my letters printed in LFO of the 13 September

1875 to 2419 and in 1876 of the
same date to 2411. as compared
with other Districts of the Presidency
of less area.

2. The area of Madurai
District is not less than 9000
square miles, and now that the
extra Overseer imperial is to be
attached to Major Vaid on Special
duty on the Poonoy Hills, and
one Overseer imperial is employed
entirely on the Poonoy channel
works, I have only 6 available
for the general duties of the District
or one for 1500 square miles of
country. Now I beg to observe
that areas of the Zemindaries cannot
be omitted in considering this
subject as many works besides
roads &c. are constantly in
them from imperial funds.

3. In the adjacent District
of Coimbatore there is Imperial fund
Overseers for an area of only

6271 square miles or one for 570 square
miles of country.

4. In Tinnevely for an area
of 5817 square miles there are
10 of these Overseers or one for
580 square miles.

5. In Pichinopoly for an
area of 3584 square miles there
are 6 of these men or one for
600 square miles of country.

6. In Salem there are 10
Overseers for an area of 7604
square miles of country or one
for 760 square miles.

7. And in all these Districts
there are Local Fund Overseers
besides. how many I do not
know; but counting in all
the Local Fund Overseers of
Madurai we have only 15 men
for 9000 square miles or one for
600 square miles. but as 6 of
these men are only Maistries
on Rupees 20 a month without

any establishments and unable
to keep accounts, make payments
or prepare plans, estimates or surveys
there are in reality only 9 qualified
superintendents or one for 1000 square miles

8. In making these
representations I have only referred
to the adjacent Districts to show
how much below the mark
we are as compared with them
in strength of establishment;
but looking at the expenditure
incurred here of nearly $1\frac{1}{4}$
lacs in the year over an area
of 9000 square miles, and contrasting
this with that taking place
in the Godavary of about

2 $\frac{1}{2}$ lacs in similar ^{area} of ground
of an area of about 5000 square
miles, it will I trust be seen
how much heavier the work
must be on the subordinates
here when the works are scattered
all over the country than elsewhere

In making this comparison I have
of course omitted the Delta entirely
but taking this into consideration
it will not be difficult to show
how much more advantageous
it is to the Government to carry
on works on a well regulated
design managed on right
principles than to let distributing
very weak establishments all
over the country to look after
petty irrigation or other works
which it is impossible to make
anything of, especially when
no instructions are given to
show how any good results
can be obtained from these
and after months of labor
these trifling projects are
retained for further information
or to be arranged on some
other plan.

9. I can only again express
my regret for not having fully

satisfied myself of the date
of certain Government orders. but
I trust it will be seen that in
bringing to the notice of the
Government the inadequacy of the
Public Works establishment in
Madras I had good grounds
for the representations made
by me independently of the
existing Local Board Overseers
including in their own the
Masonry class, and having had
experience of this matter in
bringing up at District level the
progress to a higher standard
of progress than any other in
the Presidency with ^{very} satisfactory
results as shown by the condition
of those works and the increase
of irrigation, navigation, and
revenue, I would beg earnestly
to solicit that this matter may
be allowed some further consideration
as I am certain neither the

interests of the Government or that
of the District have been at all
adequately provided for in Madras
and much of its backward
state is due to this cause.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
your Most Obedt. Servant
Guthrie Smith
District Engineer

Origl 4.0. 11. Jan'y 1876 No 81.
 4.0. 10. Decr 175 No 3500
 " 1st Oct 20. No 3094
 " 15. Oct " " 2949
 " 13. Sept " " 2614
 " 20. Dec " " 2619
 " 18. May " " 1365
 " 14. April " " 1018
 " 13. July 174 " 104 mid.

21. 1876 Rep
 No 919

The Secretary
 to Government
 Mr. Richard Rogers
 Madras

2nd July
 2nd 8th February

No 4048

Submit certain
 explanation in connection
 with the subordinate
 establishment attached
 to the Madras District

No 574

Recorded

Wm

27.2

3rd March 1876

S. E. Madras - 65
 24. 1. 1876

219

GOV. OF INDIA
PUBLIC WORKS.

Thos H. Capiner
Madras

4/3/77

3 March 1877

26-25

Directorate of Public Works
Madras

The explanation submitted
by the Brit Eng in con-
-tion with the — Secretary